

# News Release

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## California Arts Council

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## **Los Angeles Arts Organizations Recognized for Quality Work with K-12 Children**

*Assembly Speaker Núñez Joins the California Arts Council to Honor 10 “Youth Education in the Arts!” (YEA!) Grantees*

SACRAMENTO – Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez will join the California Arts Council for a “Youth Education in the Arts!” (YEA!) award presentation in Los Angeles to honor the quality work these arts organizations do with K-12 children in schools and communities. Ten YEA! grantees have been invited to the presentation on December 15, 2005 at the Grand Hall of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion from 10:30 to 11:30 am. The YEA! grant awards presentation is generously co-hosted by the Los Angeles Opera and The Music Center’s Education Division.

“These YEA! grantees work hard to bring the arts to children in public schools who otherwise may not be exposed to theater, dance, music or visual arts,” said Muriel Johnson, Director of the California Arts Council. “Los Angeles is fortunate to have such dedicated organizations.”

The YEA! Program was created based on the California Arts Council’s priority of engaging young people through hands-on arts education, especially children who have limited access to arts participation. Grants range from \$2,250 to \$5,000, and the funded organizations are required to provide a dollar-for-dollar financial match. Those awarded demonstrated quality artistic programming for youth (K-12), a positive impact on participants, and a history of serving youth for a minimum of three consecutive years. A list of the organizations to be honored is attached.

For details about the YEA! Program, the awards event, or how the California Arts Council supports increased participation in the arts, contact Mary Beth Barber at 916-322-6588 or [mbarber@caartscouncil.com](mailto:mbarber@caartscouncil.com). Information about the YEA! Program and the full list of 202 grantees can be viewed on the California Arts Council website at <http://www.cac.ca.gov/?id=155&press=116>. For the L.A. Opera, contact Stacy Brightman at 213-972-7252, and The Music Center Education Division at 213-250-ARTS.

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*The mission of the California Arts Council, a state agency, is to advance California through the Arts and Creativity. Members of the California Arts Council include: Chair Marcy Friedman, Vice Chair Dr. Jerrold Hiura, Vice Chair Michael Alexander, Annette Bening, Eunice David, Phyllis Epstein, Malissa Feruzzi Shriver, Steven J. Fogel, Barbara George, and Michael Rubel.*

## **California Arts Council**

# **Youth Education in the Arts (YEA!) Award Presentation**

***Grantees Honored, December 15, 2005***

**Art Share Los Angeles** is a community arts organization that offers art classes (filmmaking, painting, creative writing, theater, music and photography) to high-risk youth through community classes and after-school programs through a contract with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). The organization boasts a high success rate for their programs, noting that in the first six months of completion, Art Share youth increased their academics by 90 percent. The organization serves youth from Los Angeles neighborhoods including East Los Angeles, Highland Park, Bell, Montebello, South Gate, South Central, Belmont, Garfield, and Van Nuys. Art Share Los Angeles received a YEA! grant of \$3,840 in 2005. More information on the organization can be found at <http://www.artsharela.org>.

**Children's Museum of Los Angeles** educates, empowers, entertains and enriches the lives of children. The programs of the museum's outreach program, Museum2Go, are closely aligned with the Department of Education's Standards for Visual and Performing Arts and provide educational and entertaining programs to children at schools, festivals and community centers. Specific Museum2Go programs include Art2Go (art from recycled materials) and Reading Edge and Teacher Workshops (arts-based literacy program). The Children's Museum of Los Angeles received a YEA! grant of \$2,750 in 2005. More information on the museum can be found at <http://childrensmuseumla.org>.

**Inner-City Arts** works closely with the LAUSD to provide multi-cultural experiences in the arts to enhance learning outcomes for children with limited-English proficiency, through direct instruction of the arts disciplines as well as integration into the regular classroom. Elementary school students are bussed to Inner-City Arts during their regular school day, twice per week, and receive 75 minutes of instruction in one art form each time they visit, for a full eight-to-ten weeks. In 2004, Inner-City arts worked with 20 sites and served 6,800 students—the vast majority who are below the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile in reading and language, and all who participate in Title 1 free or reduced lunch programs. Inner-City Arts received a YEA! grant of \$2,750. More information can be found at <http://www.inner-cityarts.org>.

**Justice by Uniting in Creative Energy (J.U.I.C.E.)** is a violence prevention arts education program that encourages creative expression using the hip-hop arts. Projects include mural workshops, documentary film projects, and lecture series where local youth meet and interact with professional artists. The organization is deeply committed to educating the youth participants about the serious repercussions for illegal graffiti while promoting safe and legal ways to practice art and muralism. The work has led to a partnership with the Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department for large-scale public murals. J.U.I.C.E. serves an area of Los Angeles that has historically had high levels of gang activity. J.U.I.C.E. conducts on-site school visits in the LAUSD, which inform the students and train the teachers on how to connect to this community. Justice by Uniting in Creative Energy received a YEA! grant of \$4,250. More information can be found at <http://www.rampartjuice.com>.

**LA's BEST** (Better Ed Students for Tomorrow) works with the public school system and other arts organizations to provide the After School Arts Program. LA's BEST works to provide safe, supervised after-school enrichment and educational activities for children ages 5 to 12. In 2003, 199 residencies of artist-educators provided service to 7,380 children in Los Angeles, with over 90% of the children from the poverty level that qualifies them for federally subsidized lunch programs. Some quotes from staff about the After School Arts Program include: "I have no trouble rounding up the kids; when it's time for art classes they come to me saying, 'we're ready, is the teacher here?'" and "Parents who show up early are asked to watch their children in the class; now they come to all the culminating events. The After School Arts Program is really great for building relationships with parents." LA's BEST received a YEA! grant of \$4,250. For more information, go to <http://www.labest.org>.

**Los Angeles Opera** presents activities for local schools and the Los Angeles community through its Education and Community Programs. Highlights include the Elementary and Secondary In-School Opera Programs that offer workshops and performance for twenty-five schools; free student matinees that served over 6,000 students in 2004; Community Presentation Tours presented in venues in outlying communities of Los Angeles County where access to performing arts programs is limited; and the "Opera for Educators" and "Opera 101 Professional Development Seminars" for teachers that offer lesson plans, lectures, performances, materials and ideas for teachers to incorporate opera and music into their classrooms. The Los Angeles Opera received a YEA! grant of \$3,840. More information can be found at <http://www.losangelesopera.com>.

**The Music Center**, the Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County that ranks with Lincoln Center and the Kennedy Center, celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Music Center Education Division in 2005. The Education Division serves hundreds of schools and thousands of students annually through its programs that include sequential workshop projects; artist-in-residence programs in schools; artist-in-residence projects for youth in L.A. County mental health facilities; professional development activities for teachers; intensive multi-day workshops for classroom teachers, artists and arts specialists; distribution of thousands of copies of arts resource materials for teachers; and over 1800 in-school music, theater and dance performances. The Music Center's Education Division's executive staff worked on the "Arts for All" initiative, the Los Angeles County Blueprint for Arts Education, and the Music Center is playing a leadership role in the plan's county-wide implementation. The Music Center received a YEA! grant of \$4,250. For more information, go to <http://www.musiccenter.org>.

**Ryman Arts** enables promising teens visual arts education taught by master artists at the University of Southern California's School of Fine Arts. These competitively selected 12-week studio classes are held on Saturdays for students throughout the region, and each student receives a full scholarship for instruction, art materials, field trips, and public transportation (when needed). In the 15 years of its existence, the Ryman Program has grown to 20 classes year-round and awarded over 2,000 scholarships, and has concentrated its outreach on the underserved high school in neighborhoods adjacent to USC where Ryman alumni conduct in-school presentations and drawing workshops. Ryman Arts received a YEA! grant of \$5,000. For more information, go to <http://rymanarts.org>.

**Theatre of Hearts/Youth First.** “Theatre of Hearts” was established 18 years ago to promote understanding between people and empower communities through the arts, and its “Youth First” program specifically to prevent and intervene in youth-on-youth violence through involving youth and their families in fine-arts educational workshops in schools and community-based sites. By 2004 the organization had served over 63,000 youth in L.A. County, started a new program for teenage girls living in youth detention facilities, and had two “Youth First” elementary schools named as “Arts Prototype Schools” by the Los Angeles Unified School District. Theatre of Hearts/Youth First received a YEA! grant of \$3,840. For more information, go to <http://theatreofhearts.org> .

**Will’s Players** is a multi-cultural theater group based at the Los Angeles Theater Center. Its “Bring Students to the Theatre” program includes: a 5-week residency at three Los Angeles high schools (Wilson, Belmont and Jefferson) where some students play ensemble roles in professional Will’s Players productions; introductory workshops at local elementary and middle schools; and student productions at each high school with supporting roles from the elementary and middle school students. Students involved in the program typically show improvement in literacy; a prime example is the story of a student who started in English as a Second Language classes, but within three years moved into regular and then advanced English classes, then to college where she continues to take drama courses. Will’s Players received a YEA! grant of \$2,750. For more information, go to <http://www.willandcompany.com> .